

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-04

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/PAB:JPMULLIGAN
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R 081639Z NOV 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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THE FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 32581 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN
BRASILIA LONDON TOKYO ERDA WASHDC ERDA GERMANTOWN NRC BETHESDA
IAEA VIENNA 04 NOV 76

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 32581

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, PARM, ENRG, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH REACTION TO PRESIDENTIAL NUCLEAR EXPORT
POLICY

1. PRESIDENT FORD'S NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY STATEMENT
WAS COVERED BY SEVERAL FRENCH DAILY NEWSPAPERS ON
OCTOBER 30 WITH FRONT PAGE LEAD. BRIEF, FACTUAL
ACCOUNTS OF STATEMENT WERE FOLLOWED BY COMMENTS TO THE
EFFECT THAT THE U.S. POLICY ON NUCLEAR EXPORTS WAS AN
ISSUE OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE IN THE U.S. ELECTION.

2. THE ONLY PUBLIC OFFICIAL FRENCH RESPONSE TO THE
STATEMENT WAS MADE ON NOVEMBER 2 (NOVEMBER 1, MONDAY,
WAS A MAJOR FRENCH HOLIDAY) BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS LOUIS DE GUIRINGAUD AT A LUNCHEON GIVEN BY
THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION OF PARIS.

RESPONDING TO A DIRECT QUESTION, THE MINISTER SAID
THAT FRANCE WAS APPLYING A POLICY THAT WAS IN ALL WAYS

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PARALLEL TO THAT IN THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT: "FRANCE

WILL NOT DELIVER EQUIPMENT, MATERIAL OR SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY WHICH CAN LEAD TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS." WITH REGARD TO THE PAKISTAN REPROCESSING PLANT, THE MINISTER, HOWEVER, INDICATED THAT FRANCE HAS NO INTENTION OF "GOING BACK ON ITS SIGNATURE." FRANCE, MEANWHILE, HAS LEFT THE DOOR OPEN FOR AN INITIATIVE ON THE PART OF PAKISTAN. THE MINISTER WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHY THE PRESIDENT USED THE TERM "MORATORIUM"; PERHAPS IT WAS A TERM CARRIED ON BY THE MOMENTUM OF THE U.S. ELECTIONS. SINCE THE NEWLY CREATED FRENCH COUNCIL ON FOREIGN NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY, FRANCE HAS BEEN DOING EXACTLY WHAT PRESIDENT FORD HAS PROPOSED.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: THE ADVANCE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FRENCH ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT AND THE APPARENT RESPECT FOR THE FRENCH COMMENTS IS A KEY FACTOR IN TODAY'S COMPATIBLE PUBLIC POSTURE OF THE FRENCH AND U.S. GOVERNMENTS (ON THE FRENCH SIDE, EXCLUDING THE PAKISTAN MATTER). ADVANCE COPIES OF THE FULL ENGLISH TEXT WERE DELIVERED TO APPROPRIATE QUAI AND CEA OFFICIALS. THROUGH USIS FRENCH TEXTS WERE PREPARED AND DISTRIBUTED OCTOBER 29. (COPIES POUCHED TO OES, PM, AND EUR/WE.) RUSH

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